



Reads mapped to rDNA feature:

- Plant 18S
- Plant 18S/Bacteria 16S
- Plant 28S
- Plant 28S/Bacteria 23S
- Plant 5.8S
- Fungal 5.8S/Bacteria 5S

Supplementary Figure 8. Most sRNA-seq datasets do not exhibit read length-specific enrichment of rRNA fragments. We downloaded publicly available sRNA-seq datasets from the NCBI SRA database at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra> (accessions summarized in Supplementary Table 8) and aligned all reads against the respective 5.8S, 18S, and 28S rDNA sequences of each species. The stacked bar graph shows the read counts (y-axis) for the respective read size (x-axis) from all available replicates. Colors indicate reads aligning to the different rDNAs: Light blue, plant 18S rDNA; dark blue, fungal 18S rDNA or bacterial 16S rDNA; light green, plant 28S rDNA; dark green, fungal 28S rDNA or bacterial 23 rDNA; light red, plant 5.8S rDNA; dark red, fungal 5.8S rDNA or bacterial 5S rDNA; grey, reads that did not align with any rDNA sequence. We examined datasets from the following samples: (A) *H. vulgare* infected with *B. hordei* at 0, 24, and 48 hpi (Hunt *et al.* 2019); (B) *H. vulgare* under salt stress (Deng *et al.* 2015) and aluminium stress (Wu *et al.* 2018), respectively; (C) *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) after infection with *B. graminis* f.sp. *tritici* at 12 hpi and under 40 °C heat stress (Xin *et al.* 2011); (D) *T. aestivum* infected with *Zymoseptoria tritici* at 12 dpi (Ma *et al.* 2019); (E) *T. aestivum* under 37 °C heat stress, continuous light stress, or UV treatment stress (Ragupathy *et al.* 2016); (F) *Glycine max* (soybean) during nodulation with the bacterial species *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* at 10 and 20 days after inoculation (Ren *et al.* 2019); (G) *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Phaseolus vulgaris* (common bean) during infection with *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Derbyshire *et al.* 2019); (H) *A. thaliana* after infection with *Verticillium dahliae* and the *V. dahliae* mutant *aly1 aly2* (Zhu *et al.* 2022); (I) *A. thaliana* infected with *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsis* at 3, 4, and 7 dpi (Dunker *et al.* 2020); (J) *Botrytis cinerea* cultivated *in vitro* (Weiberg *et al.* 2013); (K) *A. thaliana* infected with *B. cinerea* at 24, 48, and 72 hpi (Weiberg *et al.* 2013).